HIV infection in Karnataka and AIDS awareness programme

1889. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is among the top three Indian States with over 1 per cent incidence of HIV infections, among the adults in the country;

(b) if so, what are programmes launched by Government to create awareness about HIV and AIDS among the youth; and

(c) what are the initiatives taken for prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV virus?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) School AIDS Education Programme and College AIDS Education Programme have been taken up in Karnataka to create awareness about HIV/AIDS amongst children and young adults.

(c) 276 Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres have been established in the district hospitals, medical college hospitals and selected taluk hospitals where counselling and testing facilities are available. HIV positive women are administered one dose of nevirapine at the time of labour and a dose is given to the child within 72 hours of birth.

Deficient iodine supply in iodised salt

1890. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 70 per cent of the iodised salt available in the country contain less that 5 parts per million (PPM) against the prescribed level of 15 PPM making Government's propoganda for use of iodised salt useless;

(b) whether inadequacy of technology and poor method of testing is one of the main reasons for rise of iodine deficiency in the North-Eastern States; and

(c) Government's efforts taken with regard to above and achievements in reducing the iodine deficiency through iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No Sir, as per National Family Health survey-II (NFHS-II) 1998-99, 49% of the population is consuming iodated salt *i.e.* salt with more than 15 parts per million, iodine content.

(b) Surveys conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad in 2003, have indicated that the incidence of IDD had declined as a result of consumption of iodated salt in the country including North and North-Eastern States.

(c) Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme the Government has been advertising the use of only iodated salt for direct human consumption to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country, through Doordarshan and AIR, Department of Field Publicity, Song and Drama division and DAVP.

The Union Government have laid down standards of Iodated salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules 1955. In order to ensure consumption of adequately iodated salt by the public, the same is being monitored by Salt Commissioner at manufacturing level. In addition, State/Union Territories, Health Directorates are also responsible for monitoring the quality of iodated salt at consumption level both through IDD Monitoring Laboratory and also Public Health Laboratory under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Corruption in medicines purchase

1891. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have detected some fraud and corruption in procurement of medicines for a World Bank-funded health project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have blacklisted some companies as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to control recurrence of such frauds in procurement of medicines henceforth?